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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT VOLTA Electro-Motor Plant, Tallinn: Personnel/Equipment/
Production/Expansion

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The Tallinn Electro-Motor Plant Volta, on Toostuse Street in the Kopli suburb of Tallinn, is one of the largest electro-motor plants in the USSR.

Labor

2. "As of 31 Jan 53 it had 1220 workers, of whom 614 were Stakhanovites and shock workers, a large figure as in most factories the number of Stakhanovites and shock workers is usually one third of the total manpower.

Manager

3. The manager of the plant is Mikhail Tikhonovich Pechenev, a Russian who got this post in autumn 1951, after having been the manager of the Tallinn power station for about two years.

Equipment:

4. "The plant has the following shops: electrical, mechanical, winding, punching, measuring, tool making, casting, large machinery and repairs. It manufactures electro-motors with a volume of three to 85 kw. for the oil and mining industries of the USSR and more powerful dynamos for power stations.

Production

5. "In 1951 and 1952 the average output of small motors was 6000 yearly. The plant also built 34 motors with a volume of over 100 kw each for the power stations on the Volga-Don Canal. A number of motors were also manufactured for the Kuibyshev power station and the constructions on the Turan Canal.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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- 2 -

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6. "Despite its importance and its privileges the plant consistently does not fulfil its plans. This was the case in 1952 and the same is happening in 1953. In the first quarter of 1953, instead of the planned profit, the plans caused the state a loss of 446,000 rubles. Although the large work norms cause the workers to do their job carelessly and put out a lot of rejects, especially pig iron castings, the fault is not theirs alone. The plant constantly struggles with all sorts of raw material shortages, especially non-ferrous metals. Also the machinery is old and often breaks down; from time to time there is even no steam to press the windings. There are no proper store-rooms for the tools; valuable instruments lie about and deteriorate and the workers have to spend a lot of time looking for what they need.
7. "Manager Pechenev, who is an able technician, is hard put to keep production going at the pace required of him. Well versed in all the Soviet tricks of plan fulfilment, he resorts to various manipulations to make everything appear in order, at least on paper. In October 1952 he was caught. In order to show fulfilment of the plan, during the whole of the summer of 1952 he had registered unfinished motors as finished and stored, and some of them even as sent off to their destinations. A dozen people were involved in the falsification, having signed the appropriate documents. Even a number of railwaymen were bribed to sign bills of lading for non-existent motors. The fraud was discovered and reports of it even got into the local papers. However, Pechenev came out of the whole affair unscathed as he is an indispensable specialist. A few minor officials were discharged, e.g., the chairman of the trade union committee, Ivan But, who was replaced by one Krivorotov. Fully conscious of his indispensability Pechenev scoffs at the political personnel of the plant and allows political meetings to be held only rarely and pro forma.

Soviet Personnel

8. "The plant has many Soviet workers. Most of the technical personnel are Soviets, e.g. Chief Engineer Mikhail Bobyrev; the chief of the planning and blueprint section, A. Filippov; the chief of the wage section, B. Pasov; Engineers (fnu) Dzhanyan, (fnu) Pirlutski, (fnu) Sughestian, (fnu) Blakhariev, and shop chiefs (fnu) Skvortsov, (fnu) Zheleznyi, (fnu) Pozdniakov, (fnu) Neganovski.

Training

9. "The plant has a factory school. Each year this trains about 120 young boys who are then sent out as qualified workers to the various electromotor plants in the USSR.

Expansion

10. "In the autumn 1952 works started for an enlargement of the plant. The foundations for a new building the same size as the old one were laid at right angles to it. What it will house is still (spring 1953) unknown to the rank and file workers of the plant."

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